

IN THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended). As an accessory to a fork lift truck, a rail car lid lifter for lifting and removing and replacing the removable lid of a rail car, said lid fitted with a lid handle enclosing an open-sided space, by engaging the lifter with the truck and using the lifting and moving capabilities of the truck, comprising: a base configured as a palette pallet adapted for fork truck handling, said base having a lower surface for ground contact and an upper surface for mounting; said fork truck adaptation accessory comprising apertures extending through said base for the introduction in use of the forks of said fork truck; a frame mounted to said base, said frame comprising a structure interconnecting said base and a boom, said boom comprising an elongated structure extending from a proximal end mounted to the frame and having generally at the distal end at least one fitting for engaging the lid handle and said boom having upper and lower surfaces in general parallelity generally parallel to the lower surface of said base and said surfaces spaced at said distal end to fit within said open sided space of said lid handle, wherein the assembly of said boom, frame and base freely stands upon the ground on the lower surface of said base when not in use.

2. (previously amended).. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is at least one hook on the lower surface of the boom.

3. (previously amended). The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is a limit stop comprising a protuberance on said upper surface between the distal end of the boom and the frame whereby an engaged lid handle cannot inadvertently slide toward the frame beyond said stop.

4. (previously amended). The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is a safety strap comprising a strong, flexible means, flexibly attached to the frame at one end, and of

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sufficient length to wrap around a part of the fork truck and, at the other end, terminated in fastening means whereby an operator may removably secure the frame to said fork truck during fork truck handling.

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5 / (currently amended) The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the fitting is a plug and the ^{at least one} plug has an elastomeric covering.

b / *8* (original) The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises at least one column.

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7 / *9* (previously amended). The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the end of the boom distal from the frame has a lifting hook fitting on the lower surface whereby a lid handle can be engaged by said hook fitting during fork truck handling.

b / *8* / (previously amended) The rail car lid lifter of claim 1 adapted for ram truck handling, said ram truck comprising a fork truck wherein the fork assembly has been unfastened and replaced by a moldboard onto which a length of heavy pipe has been mounted to act as a ram for engaging and moving coils, said lifter further comprising: a collar extending through the base for reception of said ram.

9 / *11* (previously amended) The lid lifter of claim *10* wherein the frame has at least one ear attached thereto with a hole therein that matches at least one ear with a hole therein attached on the moldboard of the ram truck so that in use with said ram truck a pin can lock the lifter and the ram truck together.

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10 / (previously added) The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the at least one fitting is a saddle on the upper surface of the boom.

11 / (previously added) The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the at least one fitting is a plug on the upper surface of the boom.